

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 EB-07 TRSE-00 OMB-01 AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3553

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO, FR

SUBJECT: SOARES INTERVIEWS IN PARIS

REF: PARIS 24789

1. SUMMARY: IN COURSE TWO INTERVIEWS SEPTEMBER 25,
MARIO SOARES (1) FLATLY REJECTED NEW YORK TIMES
ALLEGATIONS OF CIA AID TO PPS, (2) ELABORATED SOMEWHAT
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ON HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD, AND (3) AGAIN

DREW ATTENTION TO POSSIBILITY RIGHTIST COUP IN PORTUGAL.
END SUMMARY.

2. SOARES WAS INTERVIEWED SEPT 25 ON FRENCH TV AND RADIO LUXEMBOURG. IN BOTH INTERVIEWS SOARES FLATLY DENIED NEW YORK TIMES STORY AND RELATED SPECULATION THAT PPS HAD RECEIVED ARMS OR SUBSIDIES FROM THE U.S. "THAT IS COMPLETELY UNTRUE." THE PPS, HE SAID, HAS NO ARMS AND DOES NOT INTEND TO FORM AN ARMED MILITIA. IN DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY ARMS SHOULD BE CONFINED TO ARMED FORCES. INDEED PPS HAD JUST DEMANDED DIS-ARMING OF OTHER MILITIA GROUPS SINCE ARMS IN CIVILIAN HANDS CAN BECOME DANGEROUS.

3. AS FOR FINANCIAL SUBSIDIES SOARES SAID PPS WAS "PROUD TO MEET ITS OWN EXPENSES BY ITS OWN MEANS." IT DOES BENEFIT FROM INTERNATIONAL SOCIALIST SOLIDARITY, BUT RECEIVES NO MONEY "PARTICULARLY FROM U.S." IN ANY CASE, PPS HAS NO LINKS WITH U.S. PARTIES WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY SUCH AID. THE NYT STORY IS THEREFORE "SIMPLE SPECULATION." SOARES ALSO SAID THAT HE HAD NO "PROOF" THAT PORTUGUESE COMMUNIST PARTY WAS RECEIVING AID (PRESUMABLY FROM USSR).

4. REGARDING HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT GISCARD, SOARES SAID THAT THEY HAD DISCUSSED VITAL PROBLEM OF NEGOTIATING A "COMMERCIAL TREATY" BETWEEN PORTUGAL AND COMMON MARKET. HE SAID GISCARD HAD SHOWN "GREAT COMPREHENSION" FOR PORTUGAL DOMESTIC SITUATION. DISCUSSION ALSO TOUCHED ON FRENCH AID FOR REPATRIATION ANGOLAN REFUGEES AND QUESTION OF PORTUGUESE EMIGRES IN FRANCE.

5. RE PORTUGUESE DOMESTIC SITUATION, SOARES SAID THAT THERE WAS STILL DANGER OF RIGHTIST COUP, PARTLY DUE TO UNDENIABLE EXISTENCE OF CONTINUED AND RISING DISCONTENT WITH THE PRESENT GOVERNMENT.
RUSH

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